



Oxford Read and Discover



Animals In the Air





Animals In the Air

Robert Quinn

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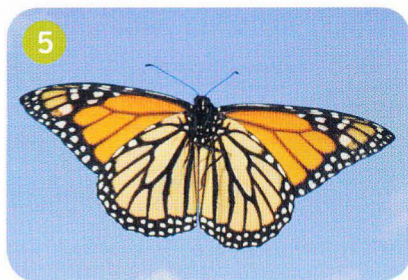
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Introduction

We see lots of animals in the air. Many of them have wings and can fly, like birds, butterflies, and bats. Other animals can jump into the air, like frogs and kangaroos.



What animals can you see here?
Which animals can fly?
Which animals can jump?



Now read and discover more
about animals in the air!

1

Animals That Fly



A Bee Collecting Nectar

Many animals fly because it helps them to stay safe, and they can move around fast to find food. For example, bees fly to collect nectar from flowers. Then they use the nectar to make honey.

An Owl Hunting a Mouse

Some animals fly to hunt other animals, so that they can eat them.

For example, owls fly to hunt smaller animals, like mice.





Doves Escaping From a Jackal

Some animals fly to stay safe from other animals that want to eat them. For example, small birds fly to escape from cats and dogs.

Many birds make their homes in tall trees, where they are safe. Some birds, like storks, make their nests in high places, like the top of tall poles or buildings.

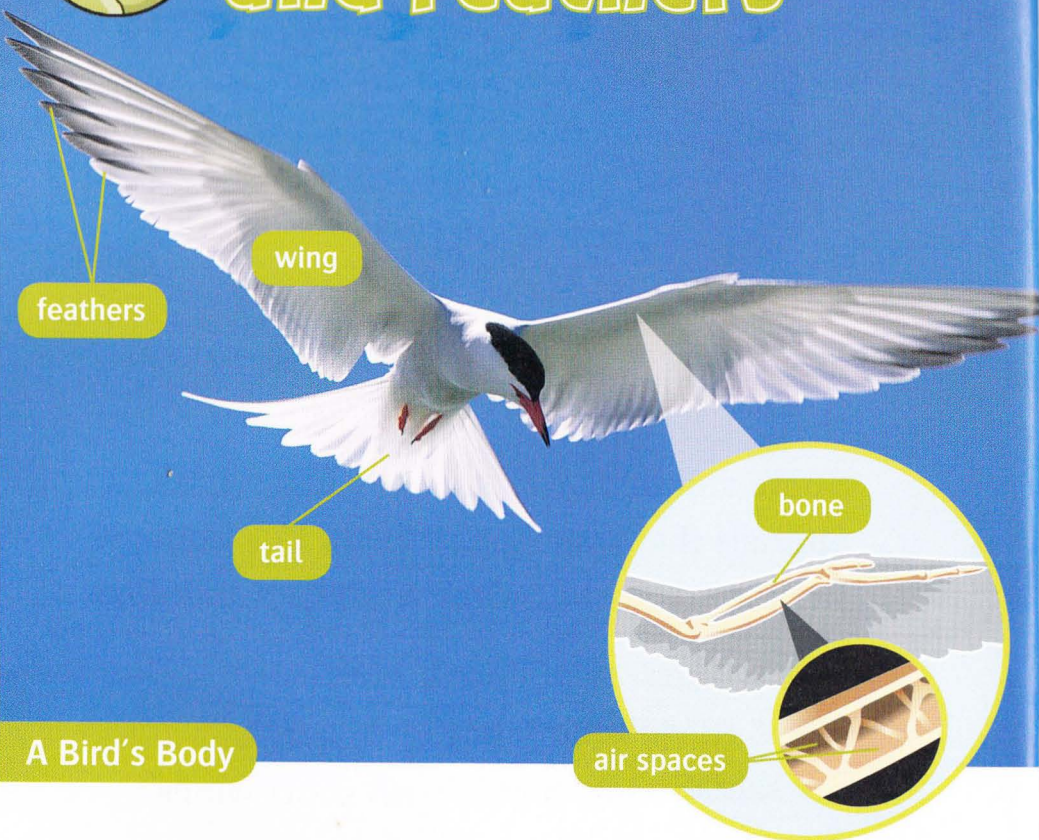


Some storks make very big nests. The nests can be 2 meters across.



Go to pages 24–25 for activities.

2 Wings and Feathers



A Bird's Body

Birds have many small feathers on their body. The feathers keep birds warm and dry. Most birds also have longer feathers on their wings and tail. These are called flight feathers because they help birds to fly. Birds have very thin bones with air spaces inside. The bones are very light, so it's easy for birds to fly.



An Andean Condor

A Hummingbird



Some birds have very big wings. The Andean condor is one of the biggest flying birds in the world. It can have a wingspan of 3 meters.

Other flying birds are small, with short wings. Some hummingbirds have a wingspan of only 6 centimeters.



The biggest flying bird was the Giant Teratorn. It lived about six million years ago and it had a wingspan of up to 7 meters!



3

Amazing Fliers

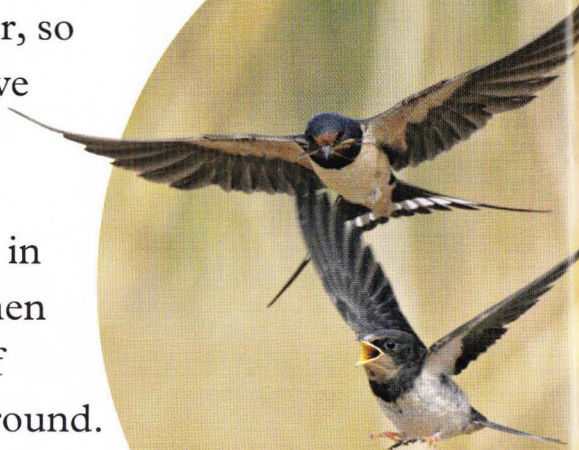


A Peregrine Falcon Diving

Most birds can fly, and some of them are amazing fliers! The fastest bird in the world is the peregrine falcon. When it's diving straight down, a peregrine falcon can fly at more than 200 kilometers per hour!

Swallows are really amazing fliers. They hunt insects in the air, so they need to dive and turn very fast. It's fun to watch swallows in the evening, when there are lots of insects flying around.

Swallows Flying





Bar-Tailed Godwits

Some birds make amazing journeys to find food, or to travel to a place to have their babies. Bar-tailed godwits fly all the way from New Zealand to Alaska – that's about 16,500 kilometers! The journey only takes about one week, with a short stop in China to rest and eat.



Swifts are small birds that spend most of the time flying. They can even sleep in the air!



Go to pages 28–29 for activities.



Flying High



Bar-Headed Geese

Some birds, like bar-headed geese, fly very high. Bar-headed geese can fly over the highest mountains in the world – the Himalayas. Some of these mountains are more than 8,000 meters high.



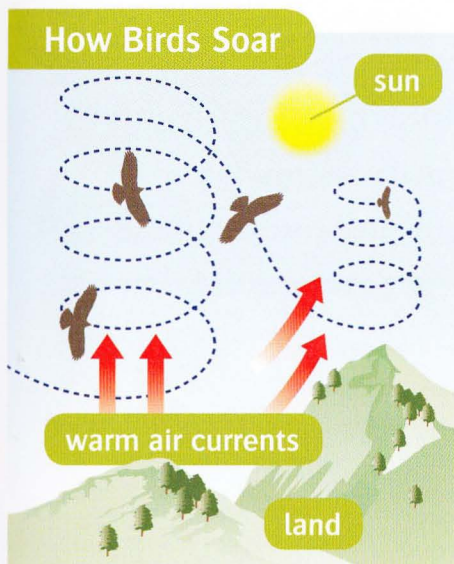
Ruppell's vultures can fly at more than 11,000 meters high. That's higher than many planes!





An Eagle Soaring

Some birds, like vultures, condors, and eagles, don't move their wings a lot when they are flying high. They soar on warm air currents that are moving around. Birds that can soar have long, wide wings.



It's easier for birds to soar when it's sunny. The sun makes the land warm. Then the land makes the air warm, and warm air currents go up. Birds go up on the air currents, and they soar in circles, high in the air.



Go to pages 30–31 for activities.

5

Insects That Fly

The first flying animals in the world were insects. They lived about 350 million years ago! Today, most insects have wings and can fly. Their wings grow from their thorax – the middle part of their body.

Many insects, like bees and butterflies, have four wings. Some insects, like flies and mosquitoes, only have two wings.

Insects with Two Wings

fly



mosquito

Insects with Four Wings



butterfly

bee





An Atlas Moth

Some of the biggest flying insects today are atlas moths, from Southeast Asia. These moths have a wingspan of about 30 centimeters.

Some of the fastest flying insects in the world are dragonflies. Green darner dragonflies can fly at more than 50 kilometers per hour.



The biggest flying insects were Meganeura dragonflies. They lived about 300 million years ago and had a wingspan of about 70 centimeters!



Go to pages 32–33 for activities.

6

Flying Together

Many birds fly together in big groups called flocks. Some small birds fly in flocks to stay safe from hunting birds, like eagles and falcons. Other birds, like ducks and geese, fly in flocks when they move to a new place.

Starlings are small birds that usually fly in small flocks. These flocks sometimes join together to make big flocks with thousands of starlings. They look like dark clouds!

A Flock of Starlings





A Swarm of Locusts

Some flying insects, like bees, moths, and locusts, fly in big groups called swarms. Sometimes there are millions of insects all together! When locusts are very hungry, they eat all the green plants that they find. Swarming locusts are a big problem for farmers.



Bees only fly in swarms when they are moving to a new home. Special scout bees show the swarm where to go.



Go to pages 34–35 for activities.

7

Jumping Minibeasts

Some minibeasts, like grasshoppers, can jump really well. Grasshoppers are good jumpers because they have strong back legs. They can jump 20 times their body length.

Fleas are minibeasts that live in the hair of many animals, like dogs and cats. Fleas can't fly, but they can jump about 100 times their body length! That's how fleas move from one animal to another.

Grasshoppers



A Flea



A Jumping Spider



silk thread

All spiders can make silk. Many spiders make silk webs to catch insects. Jumping spiders don't make webs – they wait for insects and then they jump on them. They jump from a silk thread. These spiders can jump about 80 times their body length.

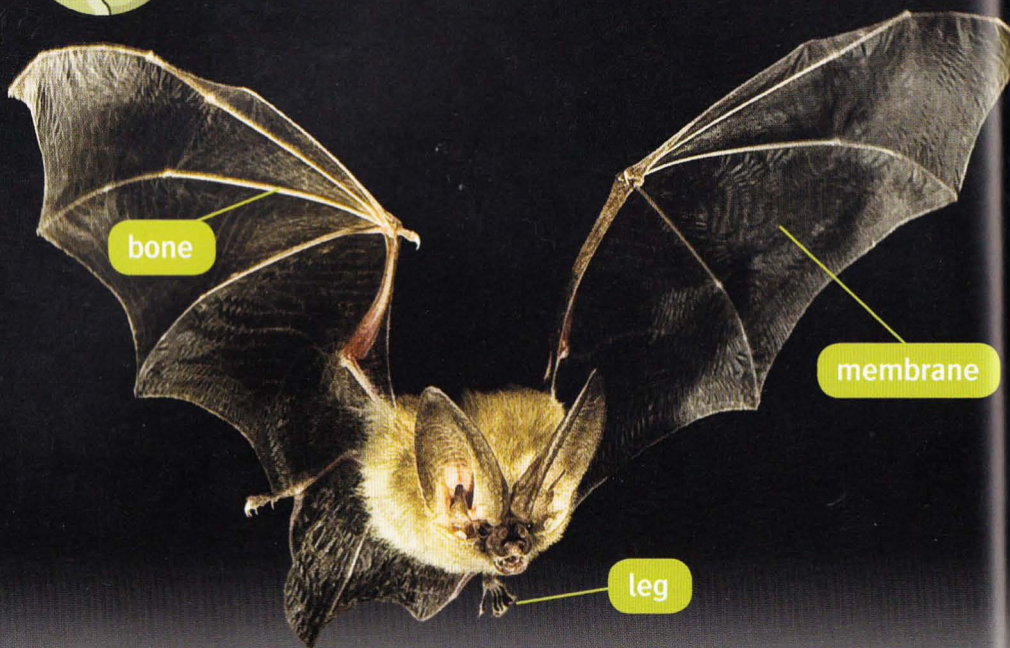


Springtails are minibeasts with a special tail that works like a spring. Springtails don't have wings, so they use their tail to push themselves into the air!



8

Bats in the Air



Did you know that bats are the only mammals that have wings and can fly? Their wings have long, thin bones that look like fingers. There's a membrane of skin between the bones.

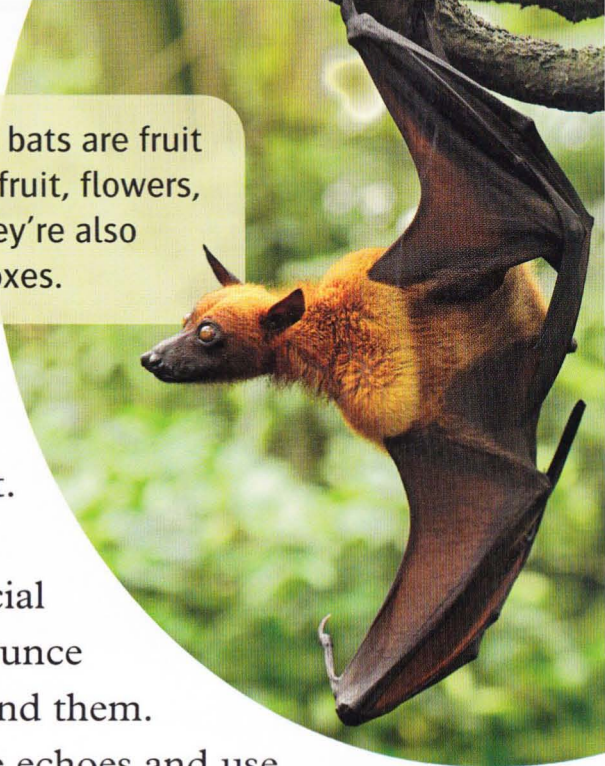
Many bats have a membrane between their legs, too. Some bats use this membrane as a net to catch insects in the air.



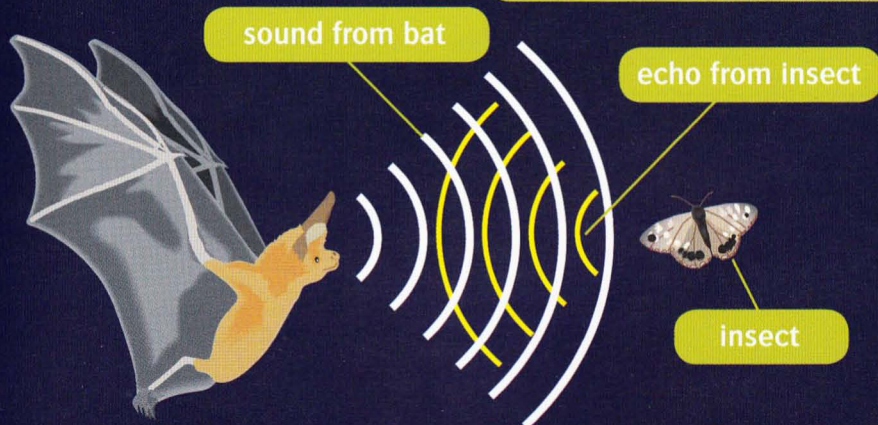
The biggest bats are fruit bats. They eat fruit, flowers, and pollen. They're also called flying foxes.

Bats usually rest in the day and fly at night. When they fly, bats make special sounds that bounce off things around them.

Bats hear these echoes and use them to find their way at night. This is called echolocation. Bats also use echolocation to find insects and other food to eat.

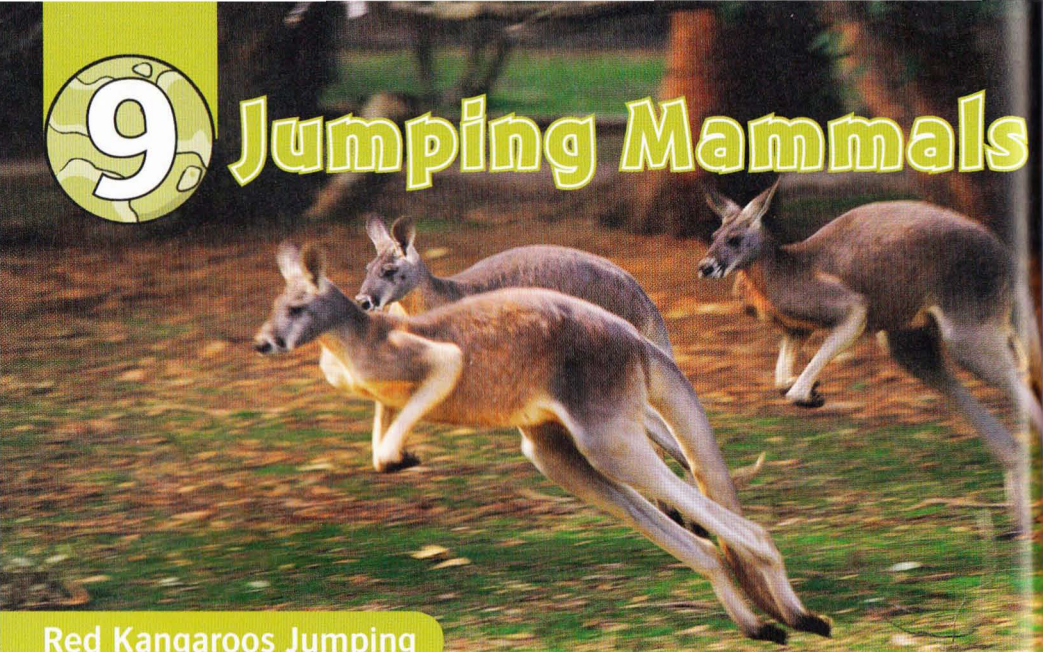


How Echolocation Works



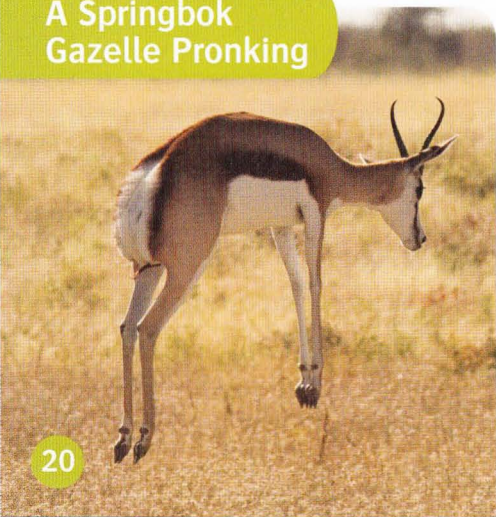
9

Jumping Mammals



Red Kangaroos Jumping

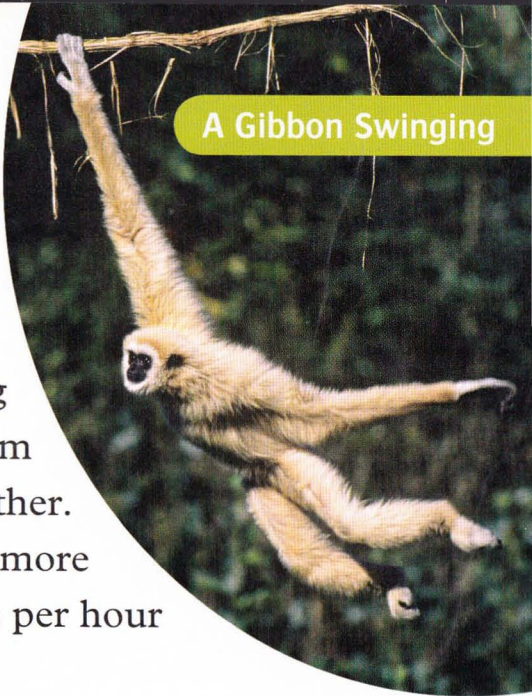
Some mammals are excellent jumpers. This helps them to stay safe from people and other animals. Red kangaroos can jump over fences that are 3 meters high. They are also fast – they can jump at more than 50 kilometers per hour!

A Springbok
Gazelle Pronking

Springbok gazelles can jump very far. They can travel more than 15 meters in one jump! Springbok gazelles can also jump straight up in the air. This is called pronking.

Some mammals, like gibbons, are good at jumping and swinging between trees. Gibbons can swing about 9 meters from one branch to another. They can travel at more than 30 kilometers per hour in this way.

A Gibbon Swinging



A Flying Squirrel Gliding



Flying squirrels can't really fly. They have membranes between their body and their legs. They use these membranes to glide in the air like kites.



Go to pages 40–41 for activities.

10

Frogs, Snakes, and Fish



A Gliding Leaf Frog

Amphibians can't fly, but some of them can glide in the air. Gliding leaf frogs have membranes between their fingers and toes. They can use these membranes to glide.

Some reptiles can glide, too. Paradise tree snakes make their body very wide and flat, and they can glide about 100 meters through the air!

A Paradise Tree Snake





We sometimes see fish in the air, too! Flying fish can jump out of the water and glide for hundreds of meters. Flying fish have big fins that look like wings.

Lots of animals can move around by flying, jumping, and gliding. Look around you today. Do you see any animals in the air?



1

Animals That Fly

← Read pages 4–5.

1 Match. Then write the sentences.

Animals that fly
Flying helps some
Some flying birds
Some birds fly

live in high places.
can move around fast.
to hunt other animals.
animals to stay safe.

- 1 Animals that fly can move around fast.
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

2 Complete the sentences.

make collect find escape hunt

- 1 Many animals fly to find food.
- 2 Bees fly to _____ nectar from flowers.
- 3 Storks _____ their nests in high places.
- 4 Small birds fly to _____ from cats and dogs.
- 5 Owls fly to _____ other animals.

3 Write *true* or *false*.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1 Mice fly to find food. | <u>false</u> |
| 2 Bees use nectar to make honey. | _____ |
| 3 Birds fly to escape from other animals. | _____ |
| 4 Owls fly to escape from mice. | _____ |
| 5 Storks make very small nests. | _____ |
| 6 Storks make nests in high places. | _____ |

4 Answer the questions.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 What does flying help animals to do? | <u>It helps them to stay safe.</u> |
| 2 Where do bees find nectar? | _____ |
| 3 What animals do owls hunt? | _____ |
| 4 Where do many birds make their homes? | _____ |
| 5 How big can a stork's nest be? | _____ |
| 6 Where do storks make their nests? | _____ |

2

Wings and Feathers

← Read pages 6–7.

1 Write the words.

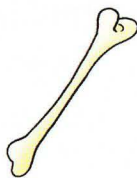
air spaces bone feather
wingspan tail wing



1 feather



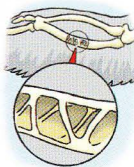
2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Circle the correct words.

- 1 Birds have many feathers / wings.
- 2 Feathers keep a bird's body cold / warm.
- 3 Birds have very thin, light / heavy bones.
- 4 The Andean condor is a small / big bird.
- 5 The Giant Teratorn was / wasn't a flying bird.

3 Answer the questions.

1 What do flight feathers do?

2 What wingspan can an Andean condor have?

3 What wingspan can a hummingbird have?

4 What wingspan did the Giant Teratorn have?

5 When did the Giant Teratorn live?

4 Find and write the words.

f	a	h	t	a	i	l	c	w
e	w	w	o	n	x	t	g	i
a	r	i	b	t	s	k	b	n
t	k	n	z	o	r	n	o	g
h	b	g	o	c	d	j	n	s
e	s	c	i	h	v	a	e	p
r	a	d	q	n	d	p	s	a
s	n	j	l	i	g	h	t	n
d	r	y	g	e	b	o	d	y

1 feathers

2 b

3 l

4 b

5 d

6 t

7 w

8 w

3

Amazing Fliers

← Read pages 8–9.

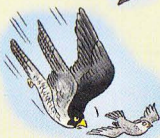
1 Match.

1



bar-tailed godwit

2



peregrine falcon

3



swallow

4



swift

2 Which bird is it? Use words from activity 1.

1 It flies from New Zealand to Alaska.

It's the bar-tailed godwit.

2 It can sleep when it's flying.

3 It dives and turns to hunt insects.

4 It's the fastest bird in the world.

3 Find and write the words.

neswatchsstopneedpsleepturnspendyresttdiven

1 watch 5

2 _____ 6 _____

3 _____ 7 _____

4 _____ 8 _____

4 Answer the questions.

1 How many kilometers can bar-tailed godwits fly?

2 How fast can peregrine falcons fly when they dive?

3 Which birds hunt insects in the air?

4 Which birds spend most of their time flying?

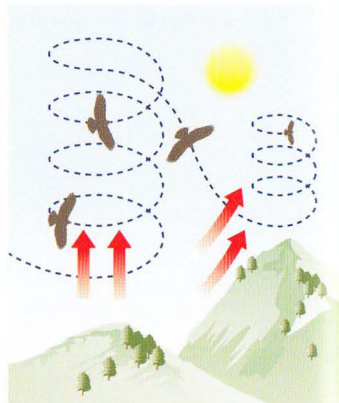
4

Flying High

← Read pages 10–11.

1 Write the sentences in order.

The birds soar high in the air.
 Warm air currents go up.
 The land makes the air warm.
~~The sun makes the land warm.~~
 Birds go up on the air currents.



1 The sun makes the land warm.

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

2 Circle the odd one out.

1 high warm sun long

2 geese vultures eagles mountains

3 currents fly soar move

3 Order the words. Then write *true* or *false*.

1 mountains. / geese / fly / Bar-headed /
can't / over

Bar-headed geese can't fly over mountains. false

2 higher / Some / than / planes. / vultures / fly

3 can / currents. / Eagles / soar / air / on / warm

4 wings. / don't / very / Condors / have / wide

5 mountains. / are / The / high / Himalayas / very

4 Answer the questions.

1 Which bird can fly at 11,000 meters high?

2 When is it easier for birds to soar?

3 What do an eagle's wings look like?

4 Which birds can fly over the Himalayas?

5

Insects That Fly

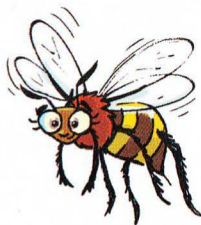
← Read pages 12–13.

bee butterfly dragonfly
mosquito fly moth

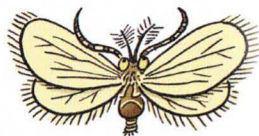
1 Write the words.



1 _____



2 _____



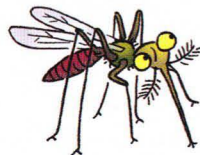
3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Write *two* or *four*.

1 Dragonflies have four wings.

2 Mosquitoes have _____ wings.

3 Bees have _____ wings.

4 Butterflies have _____ wings.

5 Flies have _____ wings.

3 Circle the correct numbers.

- 1 The biggest flying insects lived about **300 / 350** million years ago.
- 2 Green darner dragonflies can fly at more than **15 / 50** kilometers per hour.
- 3 The first flying insects lived about **250 / 350** million years ago.
- 4 Atlas moths have a wingspan that can be **30 / 50** centimeters.
- 5 Meganeura dragonflies had a wingspan that was about **50 / 70** centimeters.

4 Order the letters and write the words. Write the secret word.

s^ebe

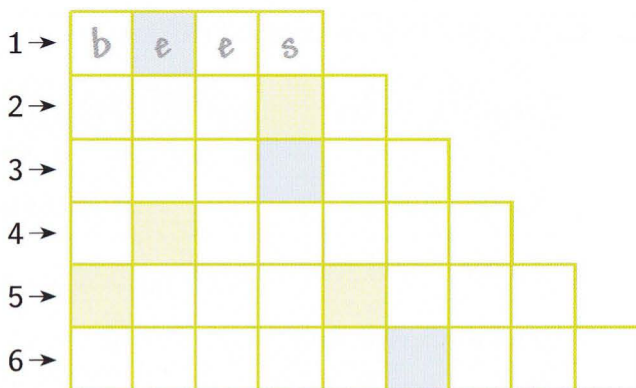
nSi_wg

hoxtra

ssecnⁱt

qoum^oits

me_tikloer



The secret word is:

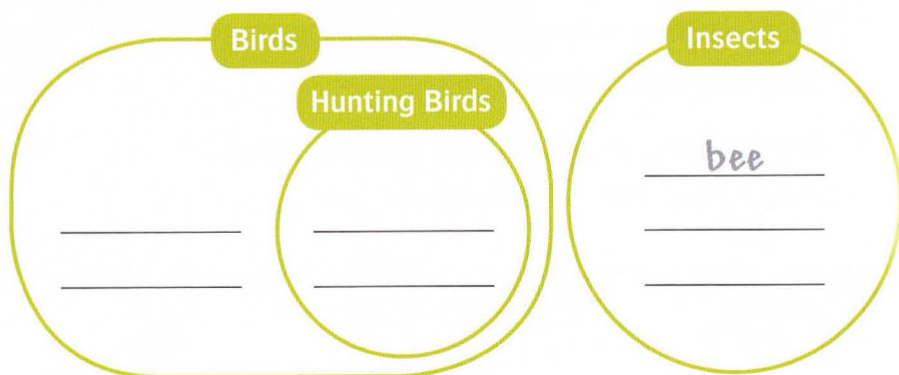


6 Flying Together

← Read pages 14–15.

1 Complete the diagram.

bee duck eagle falcon
locust moth starling




2 Complete the sentences.

famers fly hunting insect swarms

- 1 Some birds _____ in groups called flocks.
- 2 Eagles and falcons are _____ birds.
- 3 Locusts are a type of flying _____ .
- 4 Swarming locusts are a big problem for _____ .
- 5 Bees sometimes fly together in _____ .

3 Find and write the words.

group join a dark swamper plants
a hungry a farmer in a flock



1 _____

5 _____

2 _____

6 _____

3 _____

7 _____

4 _____

8 _____

4 Answer the questions.

1 When do ducks fly together in flocks?

2 What do big flocks of starlings look like?

3 When do bees fly in swarms?

4 What do hungry locusts eat?

7

Jumping Minibeasts

← Read pages 16–17.

1 Find and write the words.

x	s	p	r	i	n	g	t	a	i	l
m	i	n	i	b	e	a	s	t	n	s
t	p	b	z	l	e	g	j	l	s	p
a	n	f	t	w	q	s	i	j	e	i
i	x	l	d	e	e	a	w	g	c	d
s	p	e	h	b	s	s	k	d	t	e
g	r	a	s	s	h	o	p	p	e	r

1 w

5 l

2 f

6 s

3 s

7 m

4 i

8 g

2 Write *true* or *false*.

1 Grasshoppers live on dogs and cats. _____

2 Fleas aren't very good jumpers. _____

3 Jumping spiders usually make webs. _____

4 Springtails have a tail like a spring. _____

5 Jumping spiders can jump 80 meters. _____

3 Complete the sentences.

catch insects body length on insects
back legs into the air other animals

- 1 Grasshoppers have strong _____ .
- 2 Fleas live in the hair of _____ .
- 3 Many spiders make silk webs to _____ .
- 4 Jumping spiders wait to jump _____ .
- 5 Springtails push themselves _____ .
- 6 Fleas can jump 100 times their _____ .

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 How far can a grasshopper jump?

- 2 What animals do jumping spiders jump on?

- 3 How do fleas move from one animal to another?

- 4 What do springtails use to push themselves into the air?

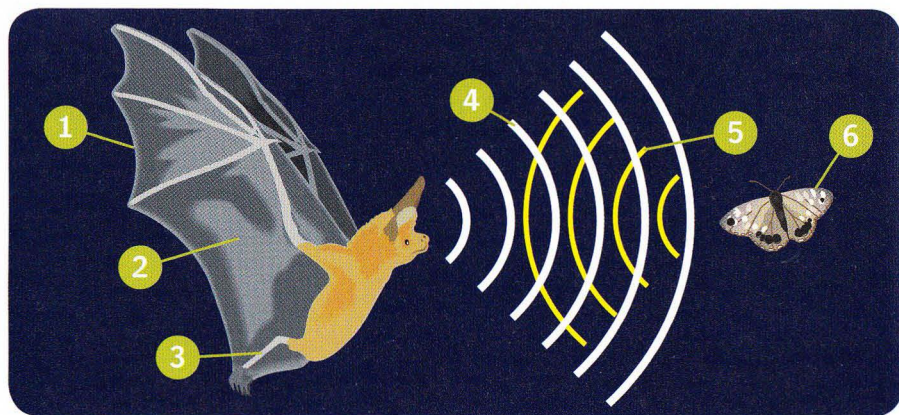
8

Bats in the Air

← Read pages 18–19.

1 Write the words.

leg insect echo
membrane sound wing



1 _____

4 _____

2 _____

5 _____

3 _____

6 _____

2 Write *true* or *false*.

1 Bats are a type of mammal. _____

2 Flying foxes are not bats. _____

3 Bats usually fly at night. _____

4 All bats eat fruit. _____

5 Bats use echoes to find things. _____

3 Match. Then write the sentences.

Bats usually
Bats make sounds that
Bats use echolocation
Bats have wings
Bats are the only

mammals that can fly.
with long, thin bones.
rest in the day.
to find their way at night.
bounce off things.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

4 Answer the questions.

1 What are fruit bats also called?

2 What do bats use to find their way at night?

3 What do bats have between their bones?

4 What do flying foxes eat?

9 Jumping Mammals

← Read pages 20–21.

1 Write the words.

kangaroo gibbon springbok gazelle flying squirrel



1 _____



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____

2 Complete the sentences.

- 1 Red kangaroos can _____ over high fences. (m_jp_u)
- 2 Springbok gazelles can _____ 15 meters in one jump. (l_v_r_t_a_e)
- 3 Gibbons can _____ 9 meters between trees. (i_w_s_g_n)
- 4 Flying squirrels can _____ like kites. (e_g_l_d)
- 5 Springbok gazelles can also _____. (n_o_k_r_p)

3 Answer the questions.

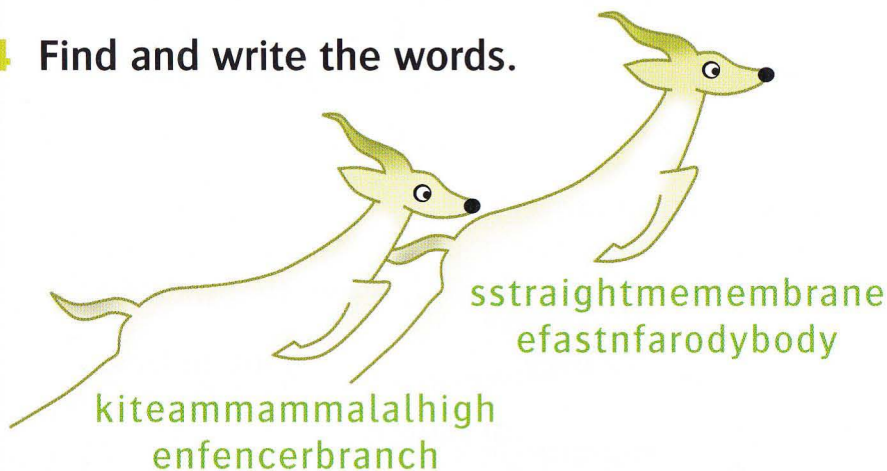
1 How high can red kangaroos jump?

2 What are gibbons good at doing?

3 How fast can gibbons travel between trees?

4 What do flying squirrels have between their body and their legs?

4 Find and write the words.



1 _____ 6 _____

2 _____ 7 _____

3 _____ 8 _____

4 _____ 9 _____

5 _____ 10 _____

10

Frogs, Snakes, and Fish

← Read pages 22–23.

1 Complete the sentences.

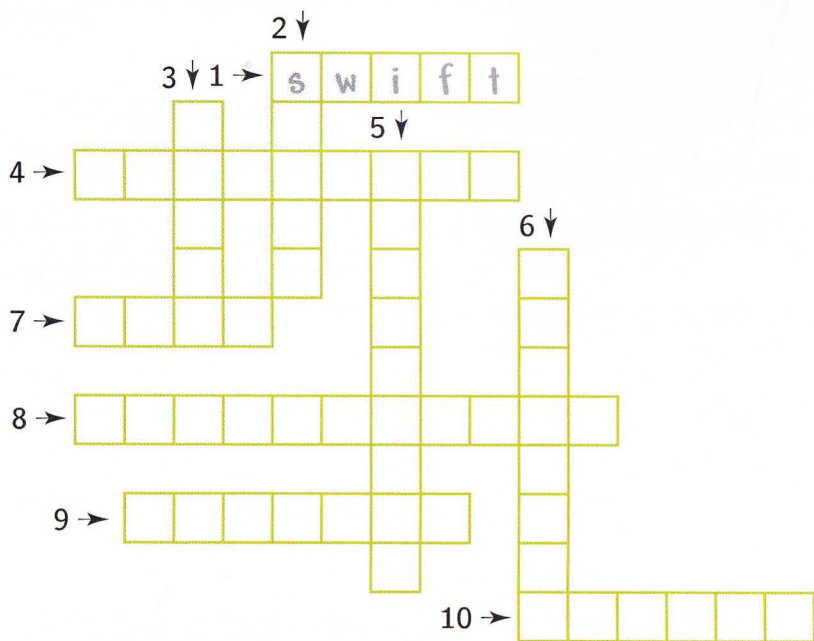
air can fish hundreds membranes meters
snakes toes glide leaf wide wings

- 1 Gliding _____ frogs have membranes between their fingers and _____. They use these _____ to _____ in the air.
- 2 Paradise tree _____ can glide about 100 _____ through the _____. They make their body _____ and flat.
- 3 Flying _____ have big fins that look like _____. They _____ glide in the air for _____ of meters.

2 Circle the odd one out.

- 1 wide membranes flat big
- 2 meters snakes frogs fish
- 3 jump glide fly body
- 4 toes fins reptiles wings

3 Complete the puzzle.



- 1 It sleeps in the air.
- 2 It makes big nests.
- 3 It's a bird that soars.
- 4 It's a very fast insect.
- 5 It's a type of bat.
- 6 It flies in big flocks.
- 7 It's a jumping minibeast.
- 8 It's a very small bird.
- 9 It hunts insects in the evening.
- 10 It's a mammal that swings between trees.

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What's your favorite flying animal?

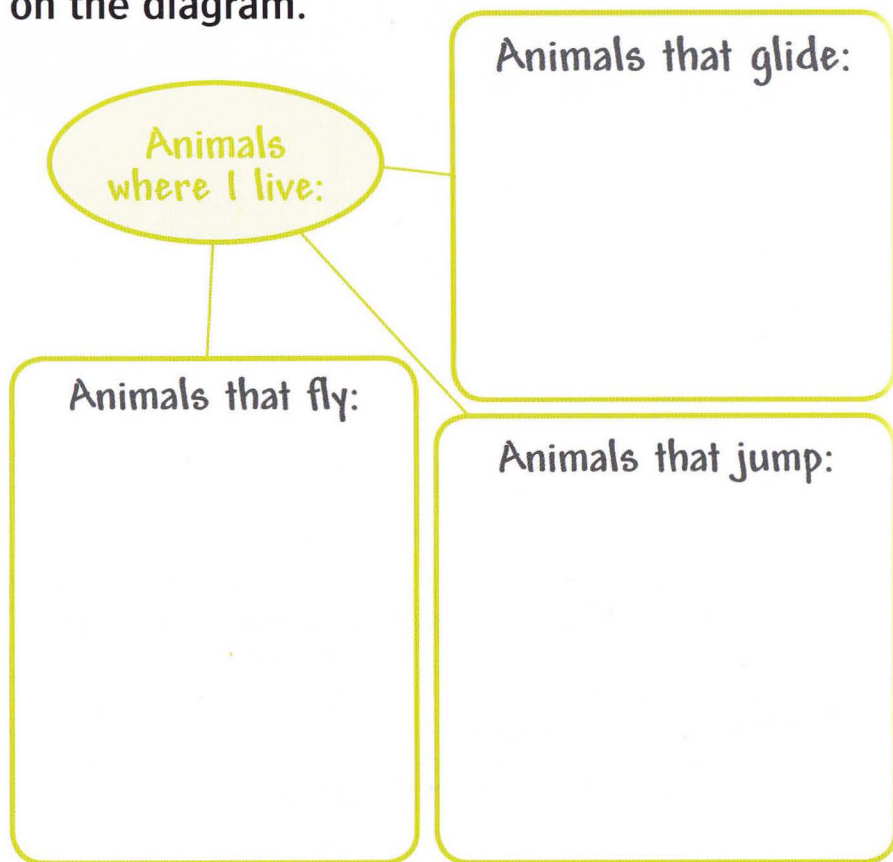
- 2 What's your favorite jumping animal?

- 3 What's your favorite gliding animal?

Project 1

An Animal Poster

- 1 Think of some animals that you can see in the air where you live. Write the names on the diagram.



- 2 Find or draw pictures of the animals. Make a poster and label the animals.
- 3 Display your poster.



An Animal Report

- 1 Choose an animal that travels in the air.
Write notes.



Is it a bird, an insect, or another type of animal?

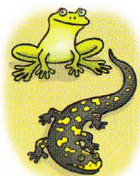
Does it fly, jump, or glide in the air?

What does its body look like?

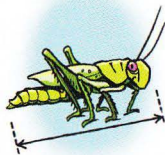
What is special about the animal?

- 2 Write sentences about the animal and add pictures.
- 3 Display your report.

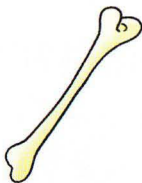
Picture Dictionary



amphibians



body
length



bone



branch



dark



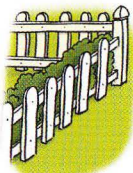
dry



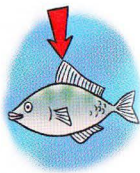
farmer



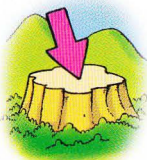
feather



fence



fin



flat



food



fruits



hair



honey



hunt



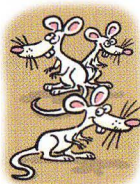
insects



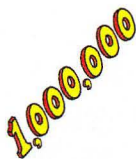
land



mammals



mice



million



mountains



nectar



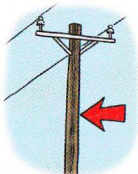
nest



net



plants



pole



pollen



push



reptiles



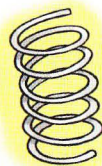
rest



silk



skin



spring



tail



thorax



warm



web



wing



wingspan



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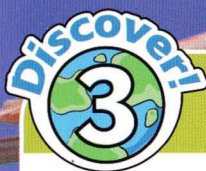
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 750 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All About Plants• How to Stay Healthy• Machines Then and Now• Why We Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All About Desert Life• All About Ocean Life• Animals at Night• Incredible Earth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animals in Art• Wonders of the Past
 900 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Materials to Products• Medicine Then and Now• Transportation Then and Now• Wild Weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All About Islands• Animal Life Cycles• Exploring Our World• Great Migrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homes Around the World• Our World in Art
 1,050 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cells and Microbes• Clothes Then and Now• Incredible Energy• Your Amazing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All About Space• Caring for Our Planet• Earth Then and Now• Wonderful Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helping Around the World• Food Around the World

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